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poor and in the possibility of helping them, the latter gives one the impression of doubt and despair, giving no hint of where to begin in mending matters. It seems probable that experience will uphold the more hopeful view.

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Les Congrès Ouvriers en France (1876-1897). By Léon de Seilhac. (Bibliothèque du Musée Social.) Pp. ix, 364. Price, 4 francs. Paris: Armand Colin et Cie., 1899.

Thanks to various studies, the history of the modern labor movement in Great Britain and Germany is comparatively well known to American students. On the other hand, it is safe to say that few if any Americans have been able to obtain a clear idea of the labor movement in France during the past twenty or twenty-five years. This has been due both to the inaccessibility of material and to the constant shifting of the labor parties in France.

The Musée Social has collected such material relating to labor affairs as was contained in the reports of national gatherings of workmen's organizations since 1876. M. Léon de Seilhac, author of "*Le Monde Socialiste*," has been entrusted with the compilation of these reports and he has arranged them in such a way as to afford an excellent sketch of the rise and growth of all the numerous labor parties in France. The compilation consists of extracts from the most important resolutions, debates and reports of each congress supplemented by the author's comments showing the relations of the various congresses to each other and explaining the reasons for each important change of program.

The reader of this history is especially impressed by the fact that the French labor organizations have been completely controlled by the socialists. There are many different parties representing French labor interests but their differences all refer to the means rather than to the end desired. One of the principal sources of contention at the present time, is the question of divorcing the labor organizations entirely from politics. The recent growth of the *Bourses du Travail* has afforded an excellent basis for the local federation of trade-unions. These local federations have in their turn given rise to a national federation of a non-political nature and it now appears possible that a permanent separation of politics and trade-unions will be maintained.

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